

Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan**March 16, 2001****Wildfire Assessment**

Incidence of wildfire in the planning area has been low in the past several decades. Though documentation is limited, there appears to have been a major wildfire that occurred in 1895. Moore (1973) reports that an "...especially disastrous fire destroyed many trees," although the spatial extent of the fire was not noted. Local knowledge indicates that the fire was probably concentrated in the Austin Creek and South Bay sub-basins.

Urbanization in the planning area coupled with growing public use heightens not only the likelihood of ignition of fires, but also the potential for costly damage inherent in those wildfires. In the last 10 years, over 90% of wildfires reported in DNR's Northwest Region were human caused.